Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method ~~Method~~ of preparing a metal oxide layer on a substrate, in which the following successive steps are carried out:

a) a metal oxide powder is dispersed in a liquid medium comprising a dispersion solvent and a dispersant, the said liquid medium containing neither plasticizer nor binder, by means of which a suspension A of the said metal oxide powder in the said liquid medium is obtained;

b) a solution of at least one polymer in a solvent is added to the said suspension A, by means of which a suspension B is obtained;

c) suspension B is deposited on the substrate by a dip coating method, by means of which a green layer is obtained;

d) the green layer obtained in step c) is dried; and

e) the dried layer obtained in step d) is calcined.

2. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 1, in which the metal oxide layer obtained after step e) has a thickness of 1 to 100 μm.

3. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 2, in which the metal oxide layer obtained after step e) has a thickness of 1 to 10 μm.

4. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which the metal oxide is chosen from: simple oxides of the transition metals and lanthanides; mixed oxides of several of these metals; and mixtures of these simple oxides and mixed oxides.

5. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which the metal oxide is yttrium-stabilized zirconia of cubic or tetragonal structure.

6. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which the dispersion solvent is chosen from water, ketones, aliphatic alcohols and mixtures thereof.

7. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 6 ~~3~~, in which the dispersion solvent is an azeotropic mixture of ethanol and methyl ethyl ketone.

8. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which the content of metal oxide powder in suspension A is 1 to 80% by weight, preferably 20 to 60% by weight, more preferably 30 to 50% by weight, and ~~better~~ still more preferably 30 to 40% by weight.

9. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which the metal oxide powder particles have a size of 5 nm to 5 μm, preferably 100 to 300 nm and better still 50 to 300 nm.

10. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which the dispersant is chosen from ionic surfactants and non-ionic surfactants, such as phosphate esters.

11. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 10, in which the dispersant is the phosphate ester MELIORAN® ~~PE 312 sold by CECA® S.A~~.

12. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which the mass content of dispersant in suspension A is from 0.1 to 10% by weight, preferably 2 to 3% by weight, relative to the mass of dry metal oxide powder added.

13. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which the polymer is chosen from poly(aliphatic)esters.

14. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 12~~, in which the polymer is a polymer obtainable from the reaction between hexamethylenetetramine and acetylacetone in acid medium, for example in acetic acid.

15. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which the solution of at least one polymer of step b) furthermore contains the same metals as those of the oxide powder.

16. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which the solution of step b) has a viscosity of 5 mPa.s to 1000 mPa.s, preferably 20 to 100 mPa.s.

17. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which, in step b), the polymer solution is added to suspension A in a proportion expressed as a mass ratio (r_m), namely the ratio mass of polymer solution/mass of dispersion A, of 0.01 to 3, preferably 0.1 to 0.6 and more preferably 0.1 to 0.5.

18. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which the dip coating method of step c) includes a step of removing the substrate from suspension B at a controlled rate of 0.1 to 100 cm/min, preferably 1 to 10 cm/min.

19. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which the drying is carried out at a temperature ranging from room temperature to 150°C, preferably from room temperature to 50°C.

20. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 19, in which the drying time is from 1 min to 10 h, preferably about 1 h.

21. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which the calcination of step e) is carried out at a calcination temperature of 200 to 1800°C, preferably 400 to 1800°C and more preferably 1000 to 1400°C.

22. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 21, in which the calcination temperature is reached, starting from room temperature, at a rate of increase of 0.1 to 100°C/min, preferably 1 to 10°C/min.

23. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 21, in which the calcination temperature is maintained for a time of a few seconds, for example 2 seconds to several hours, preferably 1 to 10 h.

24. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which, in step e), the metal oxide layer and the substrate undergo a simultaneous sintering, or cosintering, operation.

25. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the~~

~~preceding claims~~, in which the substrate is a fully dense substrate, for example a refractory oxide substrate.

26. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 1 ~~any one of Claims 1 to 24~~, in which the substrate is a porous substrate having an open and/or closed porosity ranging up to 50% by volume.

27. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, in which the substrate is chosen from: metal substrates, such as steel, silicon or aluminium substrates; ceramic substrates, such as alumina or yttrium-stabilized zirconia substrates, whether or not doped; glass substrates; and composite substrates formed from two or more of these families of materials.

28. (Currently amended) The method ~~Method~~ according to Claim 27, in which the substrate is a porous Ni-YSZ cermet substrate forming for example an anode, for example of an SOFC fuel cell.